

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, May 2, 2003

RETURN OF SUMMER REDEPLOYMENT INITIATIVE PUTS ADDITIONAL OFFICERS ON THE STREETS

Beginning the first week in May and continuing over the next four months, dozens of additional MPDC officers will patrol DC streets every Tuesday through Saturday night as part of an expanded summer redeployment initiative. Officers, sergeants and lieutenants who are normally assigned to specialized operational units and administrative positions will be redeployed to field duty on the “power shift,” from 6 pm to 2:30 am, Tuesday through Saturday nights. The extra officers will be part of the Mobile Force, an MPDC unit that targets “hot spots” in selected DC neighborhoods that are experiencing violence, drug trafficking and other forms of street crime. These hot spots are analyzed and identified each morning during a Crime Briefing, in which MPDC command officials review computerized crime statistics and maps from the previous 48 hours. The more than 600 MPDC officers eligible for redeployment are divided among six groups, A through F. Between now and the first week of September, each group of redeployed officers will three separate one-week tours of duty in the Mobile Force.

- ① Additional police attention to chronic drug “hot spots” in the District continues with enforcement of the Anti-Loitering/Drug Free Zone law. Get more information at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/drugfreezone.shtml>

MAYOR'S CRIME FORUM II SCHEDULED FOR MAY 10

Community policing advocates and other residents from all seven police districts will join Mayor Williams and Chief Ramsey on Saturday, May 10, for the Mayor's Crime Forum II—the promised follow-up session to the first Crime Forum held in January 2003. Crime Forum II will take place at Scripture Cathedral, 810 O Street, NW, from 8:30 am to 1 pm. One purpose of Crime Forum II is to update residents on progress made in addressing some of the key issues identified at the January session. In addition, Crime Forum II will introduce to the community proposed enhancements to the PSA (Police Service Area) model—including potential changes to PSA boundaries. The process of getting community feedback on the enhancements will also begin. Over the past two weeks, the MPDC has been holding meetings in all seven police districts to get community input on the strengths and weaknesses of the current PSA system. Crime Forum II will include presentations by Mayor Williams and Chief Ramsey, a “town hall” discussion of key issues moderated by the Mayor, and seven simultaneous breakout sessions—one for each police district—in which police commanders and other community policing leaders will go over the details of the PSA enhancements in their neighborhoods and discuss other public safety issues.

- ① For more information about Crime Forum II, call the Mayor's Office of Community Outreach at (202) 442-8150 or visit:
<http://dc.gov/mayor/news/advisory.asp?id=408&mon=200304>
- ① For a comprehensive explanation of DC's “Policing for Prevention” strategy, including the roles and responsibilities of the PSA teams, click on:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/pfp/pfp.shtml>
- ① Review some of the issues raised and recommendations proposed by the community at Crime Forum I:
http://dc.gov/mayor/crime_prevention/crime_summit_recommendations.shtml

MPDC HARBOR PATROL STRESSES SAFETY DURING THIS YEAR'S BOATING SEASON

Following this past week's tragedy on the Potomac River near the Chain Bridge, the MPDC's Harbor Patrol is reminding boaters to respect the water and to practice important safety measures. In particular, boaters are reminded of the critical importance of personal flotation devices—or "PFDs," for short. US Coast Guard regulations require that all boats have a wearable type PFD for each person on board or being towed. Each PFD must be in good condition, readily available, and the proper size for the intended wearer. In addition, boats 16 feet in length or longer must carry a Type IV throwable device. Most adults need an extra 7-12 pounds of buoyancy to keep their heads above water. A PFD can provide that "extra lift" to keep you afloat until help comes. Your weight isn't the only factor in how much extra lift you need. A person's body fat, lung size, clothing, and water conditions are also important.

NATIONWIDE SURVEY CREDITS DC WITH HAVING STRONG TRAFFIC SAFETY LAWS

Each year, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) conducts a nationwide survey of traffic laws in the 50 states and DC. And for 2003, DC is rated among the top three jurisdictions in the nation when it comes to traffic safety laws. The IIHS rated jurisdictions' laws in six areas: drunk driving, young driver licensing, safety belt use, child restraint use, motorcycle helmet use and red-light camera use. In five of the six areas, DC's laws were rated as "Good," the highest rating provided by the IIHS. In the sixth area, drunk driving, DC laws are rated as "acceptable," the second highest of four rankings. California is the only jurisdiction to rank higher than the District in the 2003 survey; it received "Good" marks in all six categories. The state of Georgia equaled the DC's ratings. In recent years, DC has enacted a graduated licensing requirement for young drivers and has implemented tough new standards for child restraint use. Also, the District's photo enforcement programs continue to serve as national models for reducing red-light running and speeding.

NEWS & NOTES

National Police Week. Police officers from across the United States will be in DC during the week of May 9-16, for ceremonies to honor officers killed in the line of duty. For a complete list of Police Week events, visit the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund website at <http://www.nleomf.com>.

Washington Area Memorial Service. In conjunction with National Police Week, the Fraternal Order of Police, DC Lodge #1 Auxiliary, will hold its 24th Annual Memorial Service for law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in the greater DC metropolitan area, on Monday, May 12, at the fountain outside MPDC Headquarters. For more information, call the MPDC Community Outreach Section at (202) 727-0783.

Seat Belt Mobilization. Later this month, the MPDC will once again participate in a nationwide mobilization to get more people to use seat belts and buckle up children in age-appropriate safety restraints. The Operation ABC (America Buckles-up Children) Mobilization and "Click It or Ticket" campaign will run from May 19 through June 1, with a kickoff news conference on May 12. Get details at <http://www.nsc.org/airbag.htm>.

① For more information about PFDs and their use and care, as well as other safety and equipment requirements, visit the Harbor Patrol website at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/season/harborpatrol.shtm>

① The Harbor Patrol offers boating safety courses that are required of anyone who operates a boat in DC. Get the 2003 schedule of safety courses at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/season/harborclasses_03.shtm

① Learn more about the MPDC's traffic safety programs by clicking on: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/traffic.shtm>

① For the IIHS's state-by-state summary of traffic safety laws, go to: http://www.iihs.org/safety_facts/state_laws/measure_up.htm

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 5/2/03)

- 2003: 84
- 2002: 68
- % Change: +23.5%

Arrests (week ending 4/26/03)

- Total: 748
- Drugs: 98
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 40

Firearm Recoveries (as of 4/29/03)

- Total: 645
- April: 169

Traffic Fatalities (as of 5/2/03)

- 2003: 15
- 2002: 22
- % Change: -31.8%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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